

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. A Hungarian chemical expert was recently attached to the Republikanski Opiten Institut (Research Institute) in Bulgaria. His assignment was to instruct the staff on the production of Novocaine and Phenacetin, and all experiments were reportedly successful. However, since the departure of the Hungarian expert, the Institute has been unable to produce the above preparations.
2. A competition has been initiated among chemists for the development of the production process for transparent plastic sheets, to be used instead of glass in cars, planes, etc. Extensive research work was carried out in this field and special equipment for this purpose was installed at the chemical works in Iliyantsi (N 42-45, E 23-18), near Sofia. A chemist reportedly succeeded in finding the right preparations some months ago, but actual production of the material has not yet started.
3. The construction of additional buildings for the Stalin Chemical Combine ATZ (Azotno-Torov Zavod; Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant) in Dimitrovgrad has recently been started.<sup>1</sup> This factory supplies chemicals to the explosives factory in Ruse.
4. There is a plant for the dry distillation of coal at the Cherno More coal mines in Rudnik (N 42-37, E 27-30), approximately 18 kilometers north of Burgas. The plant employs about 20 chemists and 60 other technical employees. Some of the materials extracted at the plant are supplied to the pharmaceutical factories, especially to the chemical works at Iliyantsi.
5. A dispute regarding the newly erected penicillin factory in Razgrad,<sup>2</sup> near Ruse, arose in the Committee for Economic Cooperation (Komitet Za Stopansko Satrudnichestvo), which is comprised of representatives of the economic ministries, Boris Romanov, the Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Sofia, and commercial representatives of the

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other satellites (as non-permanent members). One of the Bulgarian members of the Committee criticized the decision made by the Committee regarding the size of the factory, which was designed for a capacity twice the local demand. The other satellite countries are unwilling to take over the surplus. The Bulgarians demanded that the USSR take a decisive step to solve the dilemma, as they are unwilling to start production before markets for the full output are guaranteed. The matter is still undecided, and preparations for the opening of the factory are still in progress. It was also stated that penicillin is now produced in the United States by a new synthetic process and that the Bulgarian factory may already have become obsolete before operations are started.

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